

REMARKS

Summary of Amendments

Claims 1, 15 and 16 have been amended, each to incorporate the limitation set forth in claim 12, which has accordingly been canceled. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate, in addition to the claim 12 limitation, the limitation of claim 11, and claim 16 has been amended to incorporate, in addition to the claim 12 limitation, the limitation of both claims 10 and 11.

Since claims 5 and 7 were previously canceled, claims 1-4, 6, 8-11 and 13-16 are pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 12-16; Kuibira et al. '911 in view of Kadomura et al. '913 in view and Kanno et al. '439 or Takuma et al. (JP) ' 465

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9-14 was rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0007911 to Kuibira et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,981,913 to Kadomura et al., and U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0168439 to Kanno et al. or Japanese Unexamined Pat. App. Pub. No. H09-249465 to Takuma et al.

Kuibira et al. discloses:

- (a) a wafer holder **1** formed of sintered ceramic such as sintered aluminum nitride (paragraph [0071]);
- (b) a heater circuit pattern **11**, "formed with its line width and line interval of 5 mm each or less, preferably 1 mm or less" (paragraph [0075]); and
- (c) a supporter **2** onto which wafer holder **1** is "attached."

Kuibira et al., however, makes no mention whatsoever of the composition of the "support **2**," nor of the mode of attachment of the wafer holder **1** to the support **2**. Because element (c), the metal plate, is consequently not fully anticipated by *Kuibira et al.*, the Office has made the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and relies on *Kadomura et al.* for a showing of the limitation on element (c) as to its composition.

Kadomura et al., however, teaches a *temperature adjusting jacket* ("metal jacket" in the language of Kadomura et al. '913), described as being made of a composite aluminum-based material prepared "by treatment of aluminum or an aluminum alloy with inorganic

fibers of alumina, silicon carbide, potassium titanate, aluminum borate or the like under a high pressure" (column 4, lines 7-9).

Now the Office appears to recognize that the temperature adjusting jacket of *Kadomura et al.* is for a completely different purpose from the metal plate of the present invention.

Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the retaining side of the ceramic susceptor has a warpage of 500 μ m or less.

Meanwhile, claim 15 now recites:

a ceramic susceptor of a ceramic of porosity of 0.03% or less and whose thermal conductivity is 100 W/mK or more, said susceptor having a retaining side for retaining an object to be processed, said retaining side having a warpage of 500 μ m or less.

And claim 16 now recites:

a ceramic susceptor 200 mm or more in diameter, of a ceramic of porosity of 0.03% or less and whose thermal conductivity is 100 W/mK or more, said susceptor having a retaining side for retaining an object to be processed, said retaining side having a warpage of 500 μ m or less;

It is respectfully submitted that the cited combination of references—*Kuibira et al.* in view of *Kadomura et al.* and *Kanno et al.* or *Takuma et al.*—does not disclose, teach, or suggest a combination as now recited in claim 1, nor in claims 15 and 16, which are narrower by turns than claim 1. Thus the pending claims rejected under this section of the Office action—claims 4, 6, 8-10 and 13-16—should be held allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Claims 11; Kuibira et al. '911 in view of Kadomura et al. '913 in view and Kanno et al. '439 or Takuma et al. (JP) ' 465, further in view of Hiramatsu et al. '006

Claim 11 was rejected as being unpatentable over *Kuibira et al.* in view of *Kadomura et al.* and *Kanno et al.* or *Takuma et al.*, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,006 to Hiramatsu et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that for the reasons set forth above, independent claim 1 should be held allowable. Inasmuch as claim 11 depends from claim 1, this claim should be held allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

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Accordingly, Applicant courteously urges that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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